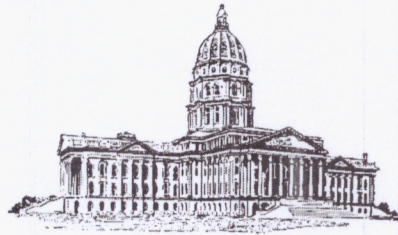


STATE OF KANSAS
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

STATE CAPITOL
TOPEKA, KANSAS 66612
(785) 296-7695
chris.croft@house.ks.gov



8909 W. 148TH TERRACE
OVERLAND PARK, KANSAS 66221

CHRISTOPHER D. CROFT
8TH DISTRICT

February 19, 2019

TESTIMONY IN FAVOR OF HB 2362

Thank you, Chairman Clark and members of the veteran and military affairs committee, for allowing me to testify on this important matter.

Recently I met with the Executive Director of the Governor's Military Council, Lieutenant General Wiggins, USA Retired. In our meeting Director Wiggins provided information on the council, its mission, members, and accomplishments. I invited Director Wiggins to testify, unfortunately he is out of the state traveling and will return late Friday.

The Governor's Military Council, created by Executive Order 07-05, is a high-level organization chaired personally by the Governor. The 26-member council fosters cooperation between the installations, public and private sectors, and initiatives to support quality of life for military personnel, active and retired. The committee also discusses the national level lobbying efforts and issues. In the military, high-level committees are supported by a lower level working group to identify issues and develop solutions to present to the higher-level organization. This lower level or working group is typically called a "Council of Colonels." It is this level of effort that this bill is attempting to address.

HB2362 will develop a task force to work issues to enhance the value of the military installations, facilities and quality of life for military and their families. The task force will report to the House Military and Veteran Committee and the Governor's Military Council. It is intended the task force shall meet quarterly, ideally prior to the quarterly Governor's Military Council meetings. The Executive Director will determine meeting locations, chair the task force, set the agenda and direct any working groups. By chairing the task force, the Executive Director will have the most relevant information when organizing and leading the Governor's Military Council. The people that attend the task force are empowered to act on behalf of the organization and are knowledgeable enough to provide value to the task force. The Director will brief the House Committee on Military and Veteran Affairs on actions needed to enhance the value of Kansas's military communities, installations, and military families.